

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 H-03 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20

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P 280048Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061997

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR,US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR TASCA'S MARCH 27 APPEARANCE BEFORE
HFAC SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE

1. BECAUSE OF PROCEDURAL DIFFICULTIES, THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE WAS UNABLE TO CONVENE AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND THE SCHEDULED HEARING WAS CONVERTED TO AN INFORMAL SECRET BRIEFING. HOUSE RULES HOLD THAT A COMMITTEE CAN HEAR TESTIMONY IN CLOSED SESSION ONLY IF A QUORUM OF MEMBERS VOTE IN OPEN SESSION TO DO SO. CHAIRMAN ROSENTHAL WAS UNABLE MUSTER QUORUM FOR THIS VOTE, THUS MAKING CLOSED SESSION PROCEDURALLY IMPOSSIBLE.

2. INFORMAL BRIEFING WAS ATTENDED BY CONGRESSMEN ROSENTHAL, BUCHANAN, FRASER, HAMILTON, YATRON, AND FRELINGHUYSEN, IN RELAXED ATMOSPHERE. AMBASSADOR TASCA'S COMMENTS WERE WELL RECEIVED AND SUBSEQUENT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WERE BOTH FRANK AND FRIENDLY. AS IN PAST, CONGRESSMEN HAMILTON AND BUCHANAN ADOPTED POSITION
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THAT SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS LOOM TOO LARGE IN OUR

FOREIGN POLICY AND THAT DEFENSE OUTWEIGHS STATE IN
ISSUES SUCH AS HOMEPORTING WHERE DEFENSE NEEDS CONFLICT
WITH OUR POLITICAL INTERESTS. FRASER, IN CONCILIATORY
MOOD, INDICATED THAT AMBASSADOR TASCA'S ENTIRE THESIS
WAS REASONABLE IF ONE AGREED WITH BASIC PREMISE THAT

MUTUAL SECURITY WAS FOREMOST U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST.
HE REITERATED HIS VIEW THAT WE SHOULD ACCEPT SOME RISK
TO OUR SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAKE OF MAKING CLEAR
OUR INTEREST IN DEMOCRACY.

3. IN SHORT, EXCEPT FOR UP-TO-DATE BRIEFING PROVIDED
BY AMBASSADOR TASCA, THIS DISCUSSION BROKE NO NEW GROUND.
NO RECORD WAS MADE OF THIS MEETING, AND AMBASSADOR
TASCA'S STATEMENT WAS NOT USED. RUSH

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Message Attributes

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